

Leaders Shape Colonies

Trace how colonial leaders' choices changed life in three British colonies.

SS.8.A.2.4 "Identify the impact of key colonial figures on the economic, political, and social development of the colonies."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each economic impact, circle each political impact, and number 1 through 3 beside three social impacts to track how leaders shaped colonial life.

Choices That Built Colonies

- ① In 1733, James Oglethorpe led settlers to Georgia, a colony meant to protect Britain's southern border from Spanish Florida. As a trustee, he supported rules against slavery, rum, and very large landholdings. Trustees hoped that small farmers would raise crops, defend the frontier, and avoid the poverty seen in crowded English cities. These rules limited plantation labor and made it harder for some settlers to build wealth. They also caused conflict as settlers demanded the freedom to use enslaved workers and acquire more land.
- ② William Penn received a royal charter for Pennsylvania in 1681. He used his power as proprietor to advertise land and religious toleration, drawing Quakers, German immigrants, and other settlers. Penn's government included an elected assembly, giving many colonists a role in lawmaking. New settlers bought land, raised crops, and traded through Philadelphia's growing port. By welcoming several religious groups, Penn helped create a more diverse society than colonies ruled by one established church. His policies shaped Pennsylvania's economic growth, political participation, and social life.
- ③ John Winthrop helped lead the Puritans to Massachusetts Bay in 1630 and served as governor. He described the colony as a model Christian community, where leaders expected residents to follow Puritan beliefs. The General Court developed into a lawmaking body with elected deputies, but voting was largely limited to male church members. These rules tied political power to religion and shaped daily social expectations. Religious dissenters, including Anne Hutchinson and Roger Williams, were banished, showing how Winthrop's vision limited religious freedom and influenced community life.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 How did Oglethorpe's rules about slavery and large landholdings affect labor and wealth in Georgia?

2 How did Penn's policy of religious toleration affect settlement and social development in Pennsylvania?

3 How did Winthrop's voting rules affect political power and social life in Massachusetts Bay?

4 Which leader expanded colonists' role in lawmaking, and which leader narrowed access to voting?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a three-sentence argument explaining which leader's choices had the strongest effect on colonial development. Use two details from the passage and explain effects in two different areas, economic, political, or social.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each economic impact, circle each political impact, and number 1 through 3 beside three social impacts to track how leaders shaped colonial life. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Oglethorpe's rules about slavery and large landholdings affect labor and wealth in Georgia?	The rules limited plantation labor and made it harder for some settlers to build wealth.
2	How did Penn's policy of religious toleration affect settlement and social development in Pennsylvania?	It attracted Quakers, German immigrants, and other settlers, helping create a more diverse society.
3	How did Winthrop's voting rules affect political power and social life in Massachusetts Bay?	Voting was largely limited to male church members, so political power was tied to Puritan religion and social expectations followed Puritan beliefs.
4	Which leader expanded colonists' role in lawmaking, and which leader narrowed access to voting?	Penn expanded participation through an elected assembly. Winthrop narrowed voting by largely limiting it to male church members.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Penn's choices had the strongest effect because they changed both the economy and society of Pennsylvania. His promise of religious toleration drew varied groups of settlers, creating a more diverse population. As these settlers bought land, raised crops, and traded through Philadelphia, Pennsylvania's economy grew.

Accept accurate statements of cause and effect that are supported by the passage. For the open response, accept a different leader if the student uses two accurate details and explains impacts in two different development areas.